



# LING1121

## Language Myths and Realities

Session 1, Weekday attendance, North Ryde 2020

*Dept of Linguistics*

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## General Information

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Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit explores some common misunderstandings about language, and introduces students to a range of linguistic topics such as historical linguistics, language evolution, writing systems, and gesture. The unit showcases what linguists do outside of academia and provides practice in analysing real linguistic data.

## Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates>

## Learning Outcomes

**ULO1:** Compare societal perspectives about language with findings from current linguistic research.

**ULO2:** Demonstrate some basic theoretical and technical knowledge about some sub-disciplines of linguistics.

**ULO3:** Understand how language data is collected for the purpose of linguistic research.

**ULO4:** Apply basic theoretical and technical linguistic knowledge to the analysis of language data.

**ULO5:** Critically discuss a myth about language in light of linguistic realities using standard written English discourse.

## General Assessment Information

All requests for deadline extensions must be submitted through [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au)

Assignments submitted late without an approved extension will be penalised at the rate of 3% of the total mark available for the assessment per day. Any work submitted without an approved extension after other students have received their marks will be treated as a non-submission.

In line with the Macquarie University [Assessment Policy](#), non-submission of any assignment that leads to a total unit mark of less than 50 will result in an FA grade being awarded.

## Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
<a href="#">Comparative Method Language Reconstruction</a>	20%	No	Week 9
<a href="#">Major Essay</a>	50%	No	Week 13
<a href="#">Writing Systems Quiz</a>	10%	No	Week 7
<a href="#">Etymology and Meaning</a>	20%	No	Week 3

### Comparative Method Language Reconstruction

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Problem set

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Week 9**

Weighting: **20%**

You will be provided with a set of words from several related languages and asked to reconstruct these words in an ancestor language, based on the linguistic data you are provided with, and answer associated questions. A template will be provided for your submission.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Demonstrate some basic theoretical and technical knowledge about some sub-disciplines of linguistics.
- Understand how language data is collected for the purpose of linguistic research.
- Apply basic theoretical and technical linguistic knowledge to the analysis of language data.

### Major Essay

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Essay

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 30 hours

Due: **Week 13**

Weighting: **50%**

This is the main piece of assessment for the unit. You will be provided with a list of essay questions on iLearn, which relate to content across the unit, and you will choose one of these for your essay, which should be of no more than 1500 words, and must appropriately use academic sources to support your argument.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Compare societal perspectives about language with findings from current linguistic research.
- Demonstrate some basic theoretical and technical knowledge about some sub-disciplines of linguistics.
- Understand how language data is collected for the purpose of linguistic research.
- Critically discuss a myth about language in light of linguistic realities using standard written English discourse.

## Writing Systems Quiz

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Quiz/Test

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 10 hours

Due: **Week 7**

Weighting: **10%**

You will complete an online quiz which focuses on topics covered in the unit about writing systems. This will involve deciphering ancient scripts and identifying types of writing system, as well as demonstrating an understanding of key terms.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Apply basic theoretical and technical linguistic knowledge to the analysis of language data.

## Etymology and Meaning

Assessment Type <sup>1</sup>: Problem set

Indicative Time on Task <sup>2</sup>: 20 hours

Due: **Week 3**

Weighting: **20%**

You will be provided with a set of words. These will form the basis of two tasks. The first involves finding the oldest and newest definitions of the word, according to the OED. The second task involves searching an online corpus of English for examples of the words in context. One of the words that has been investigated will then be the subject of an 800 word discussion of how its meaning has changed over time and what factors might account for this change.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Compare societal perspectives about language with findings from current linguistic research.
- Demonstrate some basic theoretical and technical knowledge about some sub-disciplines of linguistics.
- Understand how language data is collected for the purpose of linguistic research.
- Apply basic theoretical and technical linguistic knowledge to the analysis of language data.

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<sup>1</sup> If you need guidance or support to understand or complete this type of assessment, please contact the Learning Skills Team

<sup>2</sup> Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

## Delivery and Resources

This unit is taught through 2 x 1 hour lectures each week and 1 x 1 hour tutorial.

All lectures are recorded and live-streamed, but only the audio and the capture of what is on the screen. As we have lectures about gesture and sign languages, relying only upon the recording or live stream may not capture the entire content of the lecture.

There is no textbook for this unit. All readings are available through the Leganto reading list, accessible via the iLearn page.

## Unit Schedule

Topics that will be covered include:

- Etymology and Meaning
- Historical Linguistics
- Speech and Articulation
- Folk-linguistics
- Constructed Languages
- Myths and realities about linguistic jobs
- Language and artificial intelligence

## Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central \(https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central\)](https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and

Teaching:

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Grade Appeal Policy](#)
- [Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#) (**Note:** *The Special Consideration Policy is effective from 4 December 2017 and replaces the Disruption to Studies Policy.*)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit the [Student Policy Gateway](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway) (<https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/student-policy-gateway>). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

If you would like to see all the policies relevant to Learning and Teaching visit [Policy Central](http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central) (<http://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policy-central>).

## Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/getting-started/student-conduct>

## Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au) or if you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

## Learning Skills

Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://mq.edu.au/learningskills)) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)
- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

## Student Enquiry Service

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](https://ask.mq.edu.au)

If you are a Global MBA student contact [globalmba.support@mq.edu.au](mailto:globalmba.support@mq.edu.au)

## Equity Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

## IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit [http://www.mq.edu.au/about\\_us/offices\\_and\\_units/information\\_technology/help/](http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/).

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

## Changes since First Published

Date	Description
13/02/2020	updated dates following FSQC approval of assessment change